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LODDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL Farthing Green House Loddon Norwich Norfolk Nor 23W
Telephone Loddon 551-553

R. A. Gorham *Clerk of the Council*

A N N U A L R E P O R T
for 1970
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
and
ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR





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LODDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1970

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1970.

The Rural District of Loddon covers 60,406 acres, and had an estimated mid-year population of 13,770, an increase of 130 persons over the previous year.

Taking the population as a whole, I am happy to be able to report to you once again that no calamity of any serious magnitude has occurred for the year under review. Indeed, the figures presented for your information on the following pages are for the main part almost identical to those for the previous few years.

Taking the gradual increase in population into account there is no worsening of the situation of the public's health as far as the limitations of statistical analysis can show us. Careful study will show an improvement very occasionally as, for example, in the number of cases of measles notified over the past 2 years compared with previous years. I think there is some justification in believing this is due to the new measles vaccine. At the same time, one should recognise that the notification of infectious disease is notoriously haphazard. Particularly is this the case for persons suffering from any form of bowel infection giving rise to diarrhoea. Many of these are mild and do not come to the notice of general practitioners. Most often again the causative culprit of the symptoms is in doubt and they are not notified. This makes the epidemiology of these diseases a very inexact science on many occasions. However, there can be little doubt that the standard of hygiene of food handling in many establishments leaves much to be desired. Apparently very few kitchen staff at present engaged in food preparation for public consumption are trained to think in terms of bacterial cleanliness, which is so essential for sound hygiene methods. Perhaps the recently introduced courses in our Technical Colleges on catering and hotel management will eventually produce some improvement.

New figures supplied by the County Medical Officer have been introduced for your information following the availability of a vaccine against German Measles. Let us hope that immunisation will result in the disease being prevented in women in the early months of pregnancy, when the mild virus has such catastrophic effects on the developing infant.

One very disturbing feature in the immunisation figures is the very low percentage of babies who are being presented by their parents for smallpox vaccination. Although I understand the figure is even lower for some parts of the country, the percentage being vaccinated overall in Area 5 must be considered to have reached a dangerously low level. We should solicit everyone's co-operation to use any means in their power to persuade parents to have their children immunised against this serious and very often fatal disease. With the ever increasing movement of people to and from this country involving all other parts of the world the passage of infectious disease must be a constant danger. Whereas we have considerable protection from epidemics of cholera and typhoid by virtue of our excellent sanitation and water supplies, our only protection against smallpox - an air-borne disease - is the overall vaccination state of our population. The middle aged and elderly are probably almost universally immune due to compulsory vaccination in infancy or in war service. This is largely maintaining a protective barrier to younger generations, but as this barrier of immunity fades away and is replaced by a population only 30% or 40% of whom are immune, the dangers of serious outbreaks of smallpox must become ever more imminent. Trying to persuade people of the value of insurance, even though it doesn't affect their pockets, can be most frustrating on occasions.

In the context of the above remarks on protection against typhoid and cholera outbreaks, although some of the sewage works at times become overloaded and the effluents do not strictly conform to the standard laid down by the river authorities, nevertheless your officers have done excellent work in maintaining them at the peak of their efficiency - very often a difficult and thankless task. I am speaking of the Area as a whole, as none of us can live in isolation where waste disposal and water supplies are concerned. Undoubtedly as the population grows we shall require more extensive and unified planning to finance the provision of the ever increasing facilities which are required.

The absence of catastrophies in the sphere of Public Health should not lull us into a sense of false security. Widespread outbreaks of disease are not only caused by germs. Very often the difficulty of reducing the suffering caused by such outbreaks is to find a yardstick to measure their magnitude. Since by the nature of things we all have to die of something, the figures relating to the causes of death are only relevant in the context of the age at the time of death. Thus we are well aware that the deaths which occur by accidents in the house and on the roads very often involve young people, and therefore are rightly treated with the utmost seriousness and every method possible is utilised to publicise the important causative factors. Some Councils have formed Health Education sub-committees to help propagate such information to their own people. Others have felt that such committees serve no useful function and indeed it must be confessed that their usefulness depends very largely on the enthusiasm and imagination of the individual members and co-opted members concerned.

Perhaps a more important factor than the numbers who die prematurely are the numbers who survive but suffer permanent disability. Since these invariably are many times in excess of fatalities but being less dramatic and not officially notifiable, they receive scant consideration by the public at large. I am thinking particularly of the number of middle aged people - predominantly men - who suffer from permanent disablement from heart disease or strokes. The "Cause of Deaths" from the Registrar General lists them as Ischaemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease respectively and these together are the greatest causes of death. Both are due to degeneration of the walls of blood vessels. If those affected were all old people they would cause no great concern, but three important factors make them extremely noteworthy:

1. They are the principal cause of death in middle aged men.
2. Those who die prematurely are only a small proportion of those who suffer a terrifying experience from the same cause, many of whom are permanently disabled.
3. There is an ever-increasing volume of evidence to show that many cases, if not completely preventable, could be delayed until a much later age.

If all this is true - and I believe it to be so - why, we may ask ourselves, are we not doing something about it? The simple answer is that a lot is being done. All propaganda media possible - Press, Radio, Television, are constantly at work on this problem. I don't believe that anyone in this country has not heard that to be overweight is dangerous to health, that to take regular exercise is beneficial, that smoking cigarettes is harmful, that fattening food is best avoided, but vegetable fat (particularly polyunsaturated) is less harmful than animal fats. The problem is that the same propaganda media alternate this advice with even more forceful propaganda of how delightful most of the wrong things are! Jolly, rotund men in the thirties and forties chuckle comfortably when confronted with the dangers of being overweight, smoking, etc., and murmur bravely about having to die of something, secretly never believing for one moment that it could happen to them.

We must face the fact that to help those who would possibly suffer from disease of their heart or blood vessels prematurely we would have to alter the whole way of life of people from their third decade onwards to have any significant effect. However, I think it is important that we should continue to churn out our information and concentrate on individual rather than epidemiological success. Here again, Health Education sub-committees can do work of real value.

More exact scientific knowledge for healthy living in later years should probably start at school age, but it seems to me that this is still a very neglected topic in our children's education - at least in a manner designed to be of lasting benefit.

The increased scope and improved grants of the 1969 Housing Act has enabled many homes to be brought up to a higher standard than many owners could previously afford. There is no single environmental factor of greater importance to the public's health, both for mind and body, than good and adequate housing. Whilst it is disappointing that more people who could afford to do so have not taken immediate advantage of the improved benefits under the Act, those that have done so have been treated with utmost encouragement and sympathy by the members of this Council. As witness to this is the ever increasing flow of successful applications. This has greatly increased the work load of your officers, which they have undertaken on top of their other duties in the true spirit of the Act.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to express my deep appreciation to your Health Inspector and his staff for their never-failing co-operation and ready help, and you and the members of your Committee for your kind encouragement and sympathy at all times.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant

R.D. Harland

Local Health Office,
Aspland Road,
Norwich,
NOR 19S.

LODDON RURAL DISTRICT - 1970

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	60,406
Estimated Resident Population	13,770
Rateable Value	£349,259
Sum produced by a New Penny Rate	£3,300

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	87	90	177
Illegitimate	5	2	7
Totals	92	92	184

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population = 13.4

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	-	2	2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births = 10.8

Table 4. TOTAL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	87	92	179
Illegitimate	-	2	2

Table 5. INFANT DEATHS(a) Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under 1 year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	1

Infant Mortality Rates

Total = 5.4 (per 1,000 live births)

Legitimate = 5.6 (per 1,000 legitimate births)

Illegitimate = 0.0 (per 1,000 illegitimate births)

(b) Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants during the first four weeks)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) = 5.4

(c) Early Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) = 0.0

(d) Perinatal Mortality (Still births and deaths under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) = 10.9

Table 6. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

Males - 5 Females - 2 Total - 7 = 4% of total live births

Table 7. MATERNAL DEATHS (Including abortion) = NIL

Table 8. DEATHS (All Ages)

Males	Females	Total
76	77	153

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population = 11.1

Table 9. CAUSE OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Males	Females	Total
Congenital Abnormalities	-	1	1

Table 10. NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR
(According to Age Groups)

	Males	Females	Total
Under 4 weeks	-	1	1
4 weeks and under 1 year	-	-	-
1 " " 5	-	-	-
5 " " 15	-	2	2
15 " " 25	1	-	1
25 " " 35	-	1	1
35 " " 45	-	1	1
45 " " 55	3	4	7
55 " " 65	6	13	19
65 " " 75	24	20	44
75 and over	42	35	77
Totals	76	77	153

Table 11. CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS (Registrar-General)

Cause	Males	Females	Total
Other Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Measles	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	3	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	8	2	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	6	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	3	7
Diabetes Mellitus	1	3	4
Anaemias	1	1	2
Mental Disorders	-	2	2
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	2	4
Hypertensive Disease	1	2	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	11	9	20
Other forms of Heart Disease	6	7	13
Cerebrovascular Disease	8	10	18
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	4	8
Influenza	2	1	3
Pneumonia	8	5	13
Bronchitis and Emphysema	9	1	10
Asthma	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	1	3
Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1
Appendicitis	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
All other Accidents	-	2	2
Totals	76	77	153

Table 12. SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

	1967	1968	1969	1970
<u>Live Births per 1,000 pop.</u>	(193)	(190)	(198)	(184)
Loddon R.D.	14.7	14.1	14.5	13.4
Area 5	16.3	16.1	14.9	15.1
England and Wales (provisional)	17.2	16.9	16.3	16.0
<u>Still Births per 1,000 total births</u>	(2)	(6)	(1)	(2)
Loddon R.D.	10.2	31.0	5.0	10.8
Area 5	9.4	9.6	12.7	12.3
England & Wales (provisional)	14.8	14.0	13.0	13.0
<u>Crude Deaths per 1,000 pop.</u>	(147)	(151)	(144)	(153)
Loddon R.D.	11.2	11.2	10.6	11.1
Area 5	12.5	13.3	11.8	11.7
England & Wales (provisional)	11.2	11.9	13.6	11.7
<u>Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births</u>	(1)	(2)	(2)	(1)
Loddon R.D.	5.2	11.0	10.1	5.4
Area 5	14.6	13.0	14.6	11.6
England & Wales (provisional)	18.3	18.0	18.0	18.0

NOTE: 1. Figures in brackets are the actual numbers for Loddon R.D.
2. Area 5 comprises Depwade, Forehoe & Henstead and Loddon R.D.'s and Diss and Wymondham U.D.'s.

Table 13. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - Loddon R.D.

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Number of deaths	25	34	27	33	34
Percentage of total deaths	22	23	18	22	22

Table 14. CANCER DEATHS DURING LAST FIVE YEARS - Loddon R.D.

Year	Male			Female		
	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung
1970	76	15	8	77	19	2
1969	67	14	9	77	19	3
1968	79	16	6	72	11	1
1967	77	18	7	70	16	-
1966	58	12	3	55	13	1
Totals	357	75	33	351	78	7

Table 15. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - Loddon R.D.
(According to Age Groups)

	Under 1	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	Over 25	Totals
Scarlet Fever	-	1	2	-	1	4
Measles	2	12	8	1	-	23
Whooping Cough	1	5	2	-	-	8
Food Poisoning	-	3	2	-	1	6
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	3	21	14	1	4	43

Table 16. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES - During last five years -
Loddon R.D.

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Scarlet Fever	10	-	2	5	4
Measles	70	114	179	38	23
Whooping Cough	1	3	9	1	8
Infective Jaundice	-	-	3	-	-
Dysentery (Sonne)	4	-	6	18	1
Food Poisoning	2	2	3	4	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	2	1	-	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	3	-	1	-
Totals	93	124	203	67	43

Information given by the County Medical Officer in respect of Vaccination and Immunisation carried out in Area 5 (comprising Depwade, Forehoe & Henstead and Loddon R.D.'s and Diss and Wymondham U.D.'s) is shown in the following Tables 17 to 24.

Table 17. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Vaccination of children (under five years of age) during the year, resident in the District and Area 5, is shown in the following table.

	Loddon R.D.	Area 5
Number of live births registered	184	1205
Number of vaccinations recorded (0-4 years)	84	494
Percentage vaccinated	46	41

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1970

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am pleased to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1970.

The year was notable for the commencement of the Housing Survey, and also for the appointment for the first time of a qualified Building Inspector.

The Housing Survey, which is being undertaken parish by parish, is providing invaluable information on the standard of housing in the area, and consequential action taken is ensuring that, at the very least, unfit properties are not occupied beyond their present tenancy. On completion of the survey a record of each dwelling will be available and will be kept up to date to provide a complete, permanent picture of the housing circumstances in the area.

The new appointment of a Building Inspector during the year meant that the Public Health section was relieved, to a large extent, of the time-consuming tasks of checking plans and carrying out site visits. Obviously, though, some of these duties still exist in connection with grant applications and a satisfactory liaison has been created with the Building Inspector.

A great deal of publicity, both national and international, is currently being devoted to "environmental pollution". As this has been a pre-occupation of public health inspectors for more years than I have lived, it is pleasing to note that concern for the quality of our lives and environment is currently fashionable. It is unfortunate, perhaps, that the concern has arisen rather late in some respects and there is a certain irony, for instance, in the difference between the present public attitude to atmospheric pollution and that which greeted the passing of the Clean Air Act 1956. Nevertheless the growing awareness that action is necessary, on many fronts, when coupled with the eventual acceptance that such action must be paid for, can only do good. Considering the present pace of development in East Anglia, it would be shortsighted not to realise that many of the social and environmental discomforts hitherto confined to more urban areas, and a few problems peculiar to the mixing of suburban and rural life, will cause us increasing concern unless we plan very carefully. The importance of the environmental health aspect of planning control cannot be over emphasised and, there being no appropriate heading under which to raise the matter in my report proper, I must ask you to appreciate the reasons for my doing so here.

FOOD

While there are no grounds for complacency, and constant supervision is ever necessary, I feel it can be said that a generally satisfactory standard of food hygiene exists within the district.

No doubt this is partly attributable to the character of the area since many shops sell only frozen and prepacked food and there are few catering establishments.

My own opinion is, therefore, that we should seek to maintain the present satisfactory situation while concentrating our efforts, in the limited time at our disposal, to improve those aspects of public health which are still below a tolerable level. When this has been achieved more time will be available to try to raise food hygiene standards even higher

FOOD (Continued)

Food Premises

The number of retail food premises in the district is made up as follows :

General Stores/Grocer	...	46
Butchers	...	5
Fish and Chip Shops	...	3
Bakeries	...	2
Dairies	...	4
Catering Establishments	...	5
Public Houses	...	30
		<hr/> 95

A total of 110 visits were made to the above premises when the contraventions noted were of a minor nature and were dealt with informally.

One case arose during the year where, due to a mix-up over date-coding, a mouldy fruit pie was sold by a retailer in the area. He was prosecuted by Norfolk County Council Weights and Measures Department and, as the person responsible, had no alternative but to plead guilty. However the case emphasised the necessity for the revision of date-coding practices which is currently receiving expert consideration.

During the period the following food was voluntarily surrendered, certified unsound and destroyed by the department :

Tinned meat	...	7 lbs
Fresh fish	...	15 lbs
Frozen food	...	637 items

Water

30 water samples were taken, the details being as follows :

Bacteriological Samples

Mains	-	24.	2 unsatisfactory but cleared after flushing and re-sampling.
Wells	-	4.	2 unsatisfactory, properties connected to mains

Chemical Samples

Mains	-	1 satisfactory
Wells	-	1 satisfactory

Meat and Poultry

There are no licensed slaughterhouses within the district.

Further structural improvements were effected at the one licensed knacker's yard which continues to be visited quarterly.

A general oversight was maintained, in accordance with Ministry directives, at the following poultry dressing establishments :

FOOD (Continued)

Meat and Poultry (Continued)

Registered	2
Unregistered (regular)	2
Unregistered (occasional)	2

On their periodic visits to the knacker's yard and poultry plants the Ministry of Agriculture Divisional Veterinary Officers have expressed their satisfaction with the conditions prevailing.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Offices and Shops

The following extract is taken from the Annual Report to the Ministry of Labour made under Section 60 of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	-	6	6
Retail Shops	-	33	33
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	-	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	3	3
Fuel storage depots	-	1	1
TOTALS	-	43	43

Number of visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to registered premises 67

Accidents notified 0

The following contraventions were dealt with satisfactorily :

Temperature (no thermometers) 3

Inadequate First Aid Equipment 2

Lack of cleanliness 1

Inadequate guarding of machinery 4

In all of the cases concerning guarding of machinery adequate guards were available but were not in use. It may ultimately be necessary to prosecute persistent offenders to emphasise the importance of this point and to prevent the very real possibility of a serious accident.

WORKING CONDITIONS (Continued)

Factories

Registered Premises

Mechanical	64
Non-mechanical	12
	<u>76</u>

47 visits made to registered premises disclosed no serious contraventions but, once again, insufficient time was available to inspect all premises during the year.

HOUSING

The aspects of housing for which public health inspectors are responsible are the clearance of houses which are unfit for human habitation, the repair of houses, the improvement of houses and miscellaneous duties including the inspection of houses in connection with Rent Act legislation.

Clearance and Repair

There is no doubt that the standard used to assess fitness is below that which would allow a house to be considered "satisfactory" today, and pressure is now being brought to bear to have the standard raised to near that which applies for Discretionary Grant qualification. However, it is likely that, while so many seriously unfit houses exist, the present standard will remain in use.

Visits and inspections	663
Demolition/Closing Orders etc.	36
Dwellings repaired	37
Dwelling demolished	4
Dwellings closed	9

Improvement

National policy is now to provide for the improvement of houses which, although built many years ago, are structurally sound but lack the amenities now felt to be essential for healthy living. It is absurd that, in an age of such technological progress, people have to spend the largest part of their lives living in properties which lack a supply of hot water, indoor sanitation, a bath or satisfactory heating or cooking facilities. The grants which are available for improving houses are substantial and local authorities now have almost complete freedom to provide grants for the improvement of all types of property, subject only to very reasonable and straightforward conditions, and it is now possible for much of the cost of repairs to be included as part of the grant aid.

Standard Grants

In 1970, 30 applications for standard grants were approved, 24 of which were from owner/occupiers. The number approved in 1969 was 54, the reduction being due to the marked swing to discretionary grants.

29 standard grants were paid at an average figure of £238.

The amenities provided with the aid of these grants were as follows :

Baths or showers	Washbasins	Hot water supplies	W.C.'s.	Sinks
23	25	27	25	8

HOUSING (Continued)

Discretionary Grants

In 1970, 69 applications for discretionary grants were approved, 47 of which were from owner occupiers. The number approved in 1969 was 28.

18 discretionary grants were paid at an average figure of £621.

Number of visits	...	387
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Overcrowding

One case was investigated during the year but was resolved without recourse to statutory action.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING

The district is fortunate in having no tented camping sites and only one caravan site of any size. This is surprising considering the nature of the area and one can only hope that firm planning control will effectively preclude the caravan "towns" which blight the landscape of several nearby authorities.

The problem of the gypsy is with us and it has been said that a proper site offering decent conditions and reasonable security will be provided "near Norwich". Local Authorities usually meet opposition to their proposals to establish sites for gypsies, and while this is understandable to a degree, the situation is an urgent one and moving this rejected minority group from one area to another is no answer.

The annual August survey for Norfolk County Council disclosed the following situation at the seasonal peak :

Residential Caravans	...	36
Holiday Caravans	...	36
Tents	...	0

32 of the holiday caravans were on a licensed site and, of the residential caravans, 21 were gypsies.

Number of visits	...	48
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INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The department has a duty to investigate in the case of particular notifiable infectious diseases, and while there was no instance of any great interest or importance during the year, 27 visits were made to cases of salmonella and sonné dysentery.

PEST CONTROL

Infestations

27 visits were made to cases of infestation, the majority of these being to the Council refuse tip where, for the first time, difficulties were experienced in the control of flies. The situation was quickly brought under control however and, since then, the tip face has been regularly dressed with a suitable insecticide to prevent the breeding of flies brought in by the refuse vehicles.

In this area, at least, such pests as bed bugs, fleas etc. seem to have been virtually eliminated and in only one instance was it necessary to carry out disinfestation treatment in domestic property.

PEST CONTROL (Continued)

Infestations (Continued)

The common and lesser houseflies too are rarely reported to cause trouble, this being due to the increased domestic use of fly sprays etc. and to the now increasing use of the most effective dichlorvos impregnated strip ('Vapona' etc.)

Rodent Control

The following copy of the annual report for 1970 to the Ministry of Agriculture effectively describes the work carried out by the Council's rodent officer.

	Type of Property	
	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
1. No. of properties in district	5,106	640
2.(a) No. of properties inspected following notification	169	46
(b) No. infested by (i) rats	120	41
(ii) Mice	45	18
3.(a) Total number of properties inspected for reasons other than notifications	1,841	492
(b) No. infested by (i) rats	489	243
(ii) mice	51	19
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during year?	-	No

Number of supervisory visits ... 16

NUISANCES

The abatement of nuisances, under the provisions of the Public Health Acts, is an important part of the work of the department. A nuisance can be broadly defined as any action or situation which is injurious or dangerous to health or causes material discomfort. The person responsible is the person causing the nuisance or, if he cannot be found, the owner or occupier of the land on which the nuisance arises.

During the year a total of 100 visits was made to bring about the abatement of nuisances which included the following :

- (a) Septic effluent in ponds/ditches
- (b) Piggery effluent in ponds/ditches
- (c) Odour from domestic animals (cats) kept indoors
- (d) Indiscriminate tipping
- (e) Livestock kept inefficiently, and too close to neighbouring dwellings
- (f) Odour from sewer ventilating pipes
- (g) etc. etc.

NUISANCES (Continued)

In three cases only was it necessary to serve statutory abatement notices.

- (1) Waste material draining to neighbour's garden
- (2) Inefficient domestic septic tank
- (3) Piggery effluent draining to blocked ditch.

GENERAL

These particular instances have not recurred.

The following visits and inspections were also made during the course of the year :

Building Regulations	...	109
Planning	...	30
Drainage	...	155
Sewage Disposal	...	45
Refuse Disposal and Collection	...	58
Animal Boarding Establishments	...	3
Petroleum Acts	...	12
Noise	...	3
Miscellaneous (including Footpaths)		17

The presentation of this report is a statutory duty, and as it is for the information of Members, I would appreciate any comments or suggestions concerning its presentation in future years.

In conclusion, might I express my thanks to the Members of the Public Health Committee, to Mr. Garrood, to the Medical Officer and the Engineer and Surveyor for their help and support during the year.

A. MOORE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

for the year 1970

Farthing Green House,
Loddon,
Norwich, NOR 23W.

WATER SUPPLY

Annual Rainfall

The records quoted are those for Raveningham.

For comparison the official averages for the period 1916-50 are given.

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1916-50 average</u>
January	2.24	2.36
February	2.27	1.64
March	1.65	1.41
April	2.67	1.80
May	1.27	1.77
June	0.59	1.79
July	1.56	2.46
August	0.75	2.19
September	2.06	2.24
October	1.64	2.50
November	5.52	2.83
December	2.31	2.37
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	24.53	25.36
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Sources

There is a public mains water supply in each of the 39 Parishes in the district.

Water is purchased in bulk from the Norwich City Water undertaking through intakes at Brooke and Hellington Corner for supply to the greater part of the district. Water for the Waveney Valley parishes is extracted from a source on Outney Common, Bungay and owned jointly with the East Anglian Water Company and operated by that Company.

It had originally been intended that this Council's Water Undertaking would be transferred to the Norwich City Undertaking on the 1st April, however this transfer was postponed for 12 months. In view of the impending transfer, no major developments were undertaken,

Total Water Consumption

The quantity of water purchased, with the two previous years for comparison, is as follows :-

	Millions of Gallons		
<u>Intake</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
Outney Common	25.8	28.6	25.4
Brooke	41.3	40.8	33.2
Hellington	137.1	122.2	100.5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	204.2	191.6	168.1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total Water Consumption (Continued)

The consumption shows a further rise over the high figure of the previous year. It will be noted however that the rainfall for the period May - October was well below average. Consumption during June in particular reached a very high level which was beyond the capacity of the present system to meet satisfactorily.

Mains Extensions

The following extensions were carried out :-

Cinder Lane, Burgh St.Peter	2" dia.	135 yds.
Links Way, Thurlton	3" dia.	467 yds.
Mereside, Brooke	3" dia.	90 yds.
Nursey Close, Ellingham	3" dia.	130 yds.
Low Common, Ashby St.Mary	3" dia.	600 yds.
Aldeby	3" dia.	270 yds.
Proctor Road, Chedgrave	3" dia.	178 yds.
Geldeston Hill, Geldeston	3" dia.	180 yds.
Agnes Hood Terrace, Ditchingham	3" dia.	110 yds.
Thurlton to Thorpe	4" dia.	1,970 yds
	Total	<u>4,130 yds</u>

New Connections

The number of new connections to the mains during the year was 79.

SEWERAGE

At the commencement of the year there were six main sewage disposal plants in operation serving nine parishes.

The contract for the sewerage of Geldeston and enlargement of the Ellingham/Kirby Cane works to treat the flow from Geldeston was completed at the end of May.

Individual properties were being connected throughout the remainder of the year.

The design details and population served at the end of the year are given below.

In addition to these village schemes there are also small disposal works serving Council and Private estate where there is no main drainage system.

Existing Village Schemes

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Design Population</u>	<u>Design Flow</u> <u>Gals/Head/Day</u>	<u>Estimated Population</u> <u>served 1970</u>
Brooke	810	25	890
Loddon and Chedgrave	1,800	25	2,200
Ditchingham	1,033	30	960

Existing Village Schemes (Continued)

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Design Population</u>	<u>Design Flow Gals/Head/Day</u>	<u>Estimated Population served 1970</u>
Gillingham	460	25	450
Ellingham, Kirby Cane and Geldeston	977	28	909
Norton and Thurlton	560	30	481

Effluents

The East Suffolk and Norfolk River Authority took 13 routine samples during the year.

Those at Ditchingham, Ellingham and Norton were all satisfactory.

One bad sample was taken at Brooke and one at Gillingham exceeded the permitted level of B.O.D. but was satisfactory so far as solids were concerned.

At the Loddon works 2 samples taken early in the year were considered unsatisfactory by the River Authority, who then took a series of formal samples, these were all outside the normally permitted standard. As a result of this action the Council applied for and obtained a temporary relaxation of the standard required from these works. Subsequent samples were well within this relaxed standard.

New Works

No new works were started, there being considerable delays in obtaining land and other approvals for the new regional works at Sisland. Preparatory work continued on the first stage of this scheme, which will replace the present Loddon works and include the sewerage of Thurton and Hales.

Septic Tanks

The number of loads removed, with previous years for comparison, are as follows :

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
Private Houses	901	725	689
Council house plants	274	277	217
Schools and Farms	168)		
Main sewerage installations	291)	298	338
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Totals	<u>1,634</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>1,244</u>

The call on this service shows an even greater increase than previously, and unless the service is to be curtailed to certain categories, the Council will have to consider the provision of a second vehicle.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse collection throughout the district was maintained on a weekly basis from the curtilage of the premises. Two vehicles each with a crew of 3 men were employed full time, a third vehicle was used for seasonal and special collections

REFUSE COLLECTION (Continued)

and on occasions to relieve the vehicles on the normal rounds. 870 loads were collected equivalent to 32,960 cubic yards of uncompacted refuse. This was disposed of at the Bergh Apton tip by controlled tipping.

During the early summer a special collection of bulky items was organised. This collection was carried out with open hired lorries which were occupied for 120 hours on this work.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

The total number of planning applications considered by Committee was 320.

Under the Building Regulations 259 applications were reported as approved.

The number of completions, including new dwellings, additions and miscellaneous buildings was 164.

Staffing

A full time Building Inspector was appointed and took up his duties on the 1st March to examine plans and carry out inspections under the Building Regulations. This work had formerly been carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

The number of premises which held licences for the storage of petroleum spirit was 69.

I. S. GLADDEN.

Engineer and Surveyor.